a radius formed on the leading edge of said moving blade adapted to reduce defects in the blank associated with the trimming process; and

a support element in communication with the scrap and adapted to reduce defects in the blank associated with the trimming process, said support element moving substantially perpendicular to said upper surface.

7. An apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said moving blade is adapted for use with aluminum alloy blanks.

8. An apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said moving blade is adapted for use in an automated stamping apparatus.

12. A method of reducing the production of defects during trimming operations comprising:

holding a blank between a steady blade and a clamping pad;

moving a moving blade past said steady blade to trim scrap off of said blank, said moving blade moving perpendicular to an upper surface of said blank;

supporting said scrap to reduce defects in said blank associated with the trimming process;

keeping said scrap substantially parallel to said scrap's original orientation during the trimming process; and

reducing the strain concentration caused by said moving blade on said blank through the use of a radius formed on the leading edge of said moving blade.